



SAHASRAMALLA

TRICKSTER AND THIEF – A JAIN TALE

Vol 782





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Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1981, Reprinted March 2017, ISBN 978-81-8482-472-8

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 201 & 202, Sumer Plaza,

2nd Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 059, India

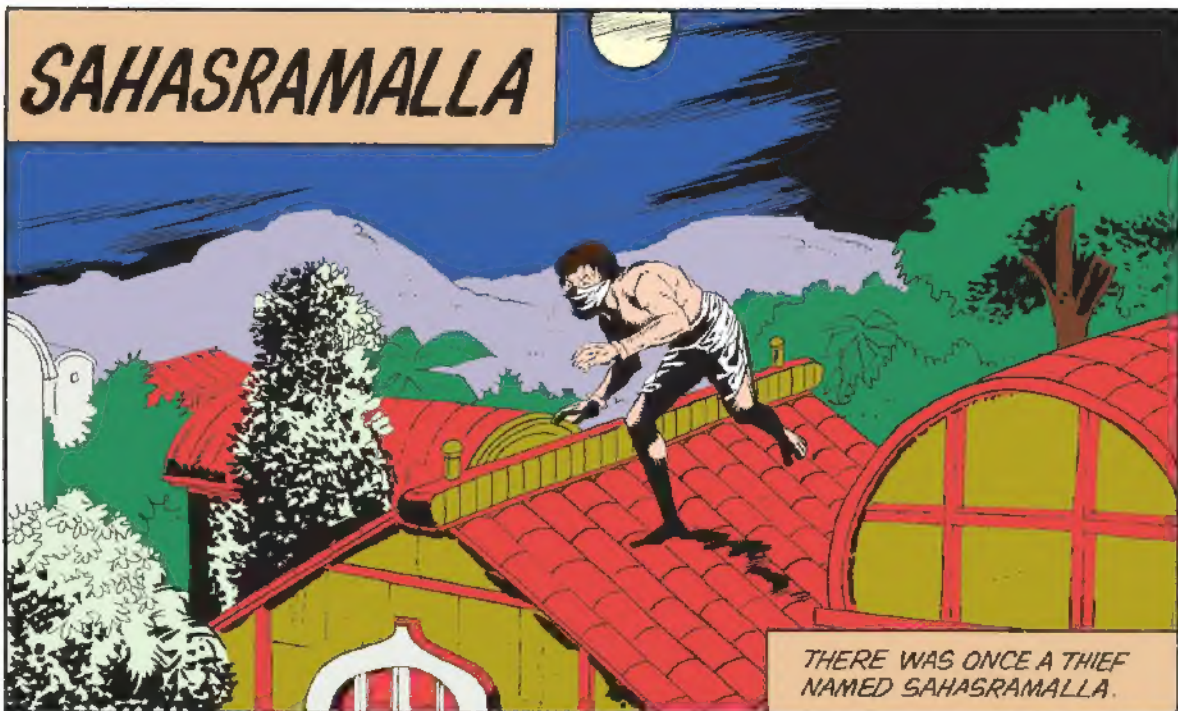
Printed at Prasad Designers & Printers, Mumbai- 400 023

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SAHASRAMALLA



THERE WAS ONCE A THIEF
NAMED SAHASRAMALLA.

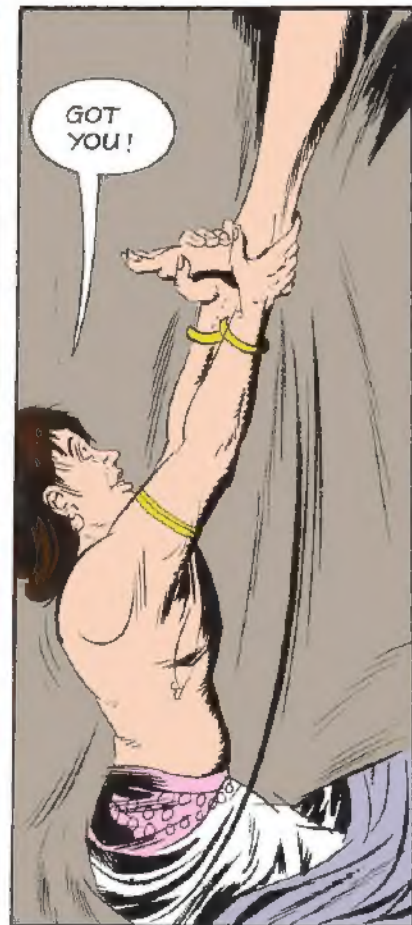
ONE NIGHT HE TRIED TO
BREAK INTO A JEWELLER'S
SHOP.

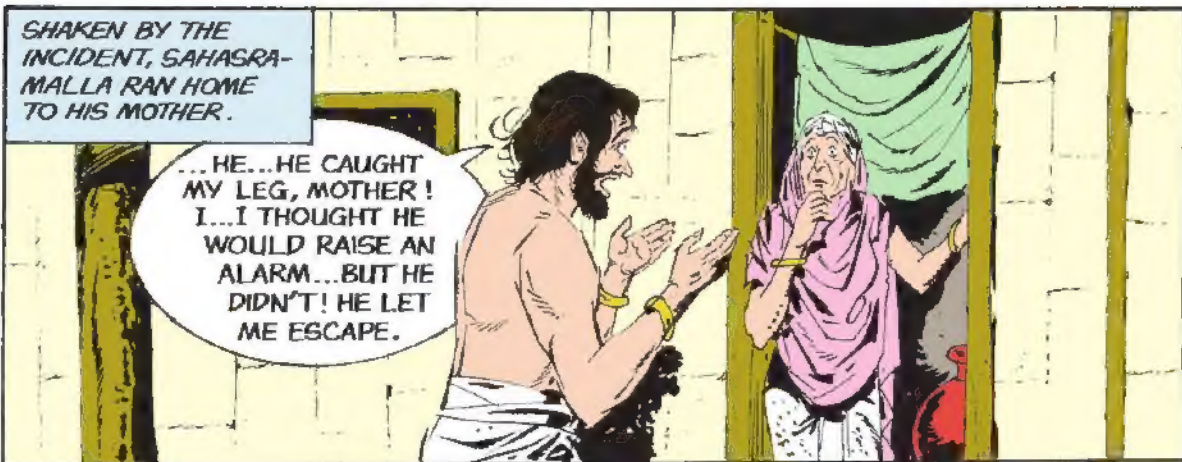
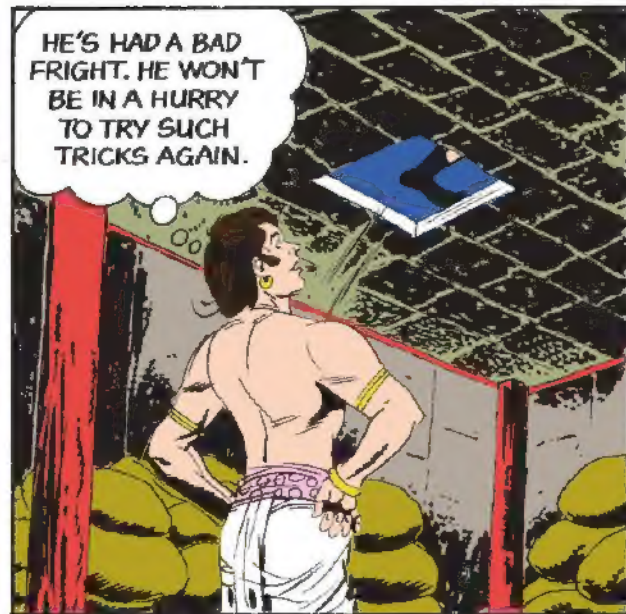


BUT AS LUCK WOULD
HAVE IT, THE JEWELLER'S
SON WAS SLEEPING
INSIDE

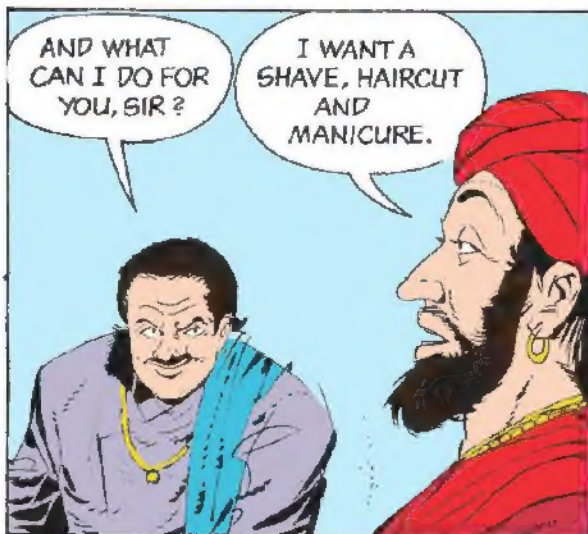


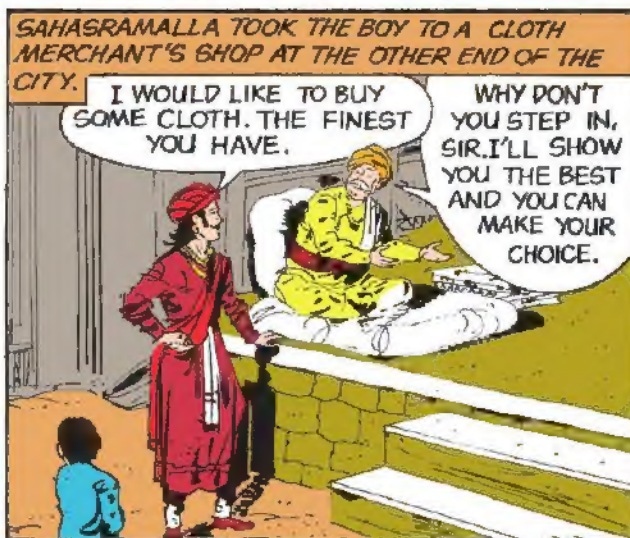
GOT
YOU!

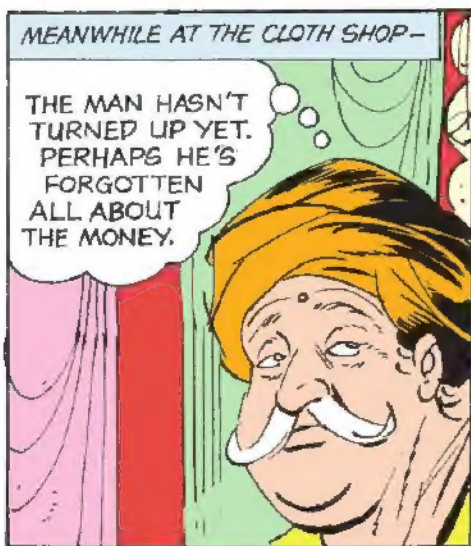




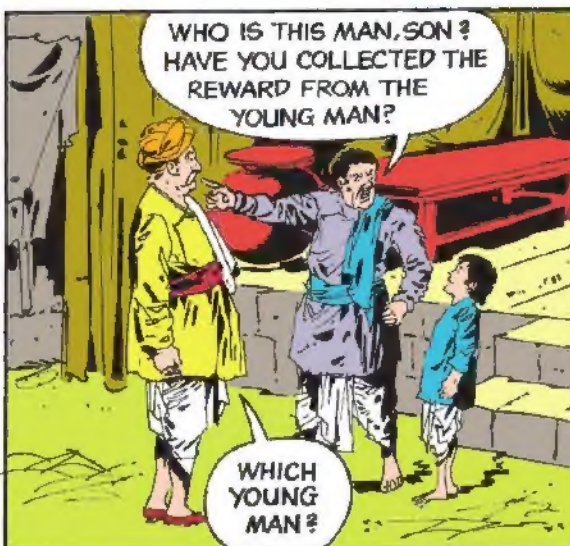
HEARTENED BY HIS MOTHER'S WORDS, EARLY ONE MORNING, SAHASRAMALLA WALKED DOWN TO A BARBER'S SHOP.

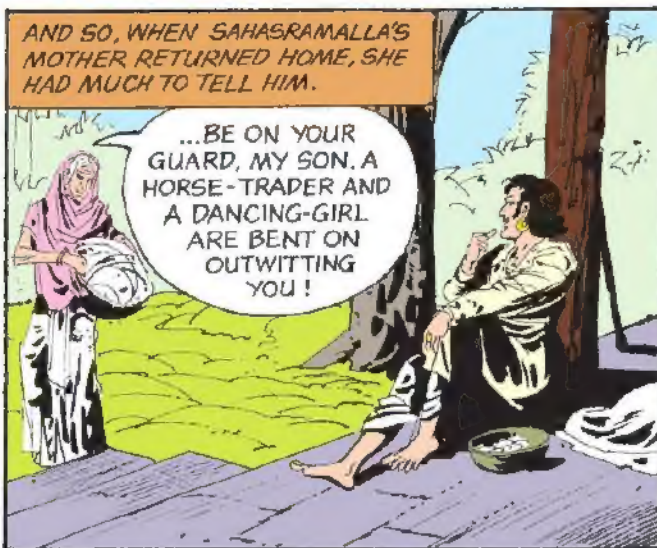






THE TWO SET OUT.





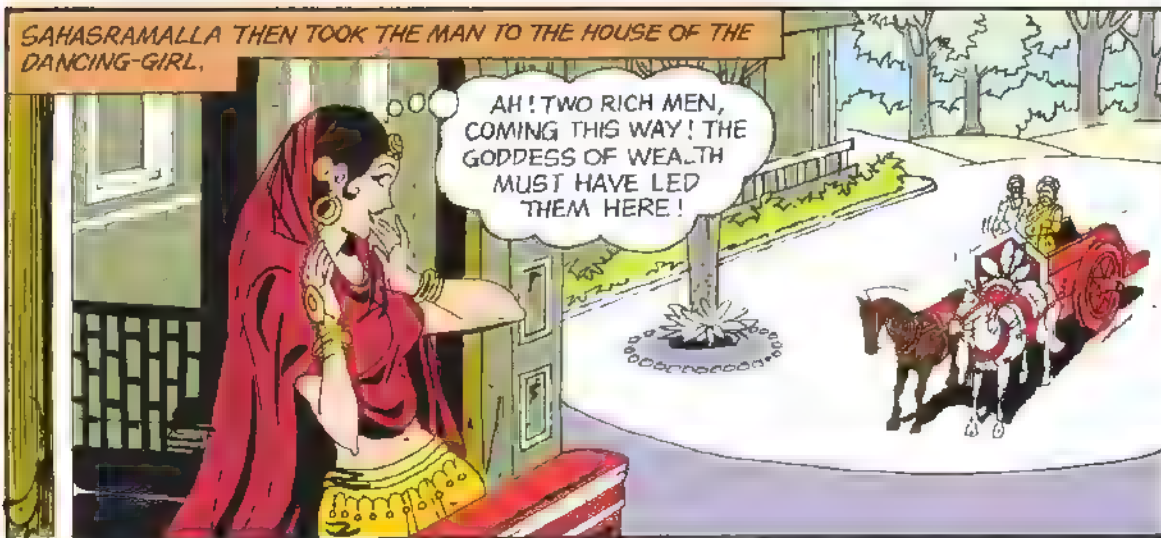
THAT EVENING AS THE HORSE-TRADER, WHO HAD SET UP CAMP OUTSIDE THE CITY, WAS RELAXING OUTSIDE HIS TENT—



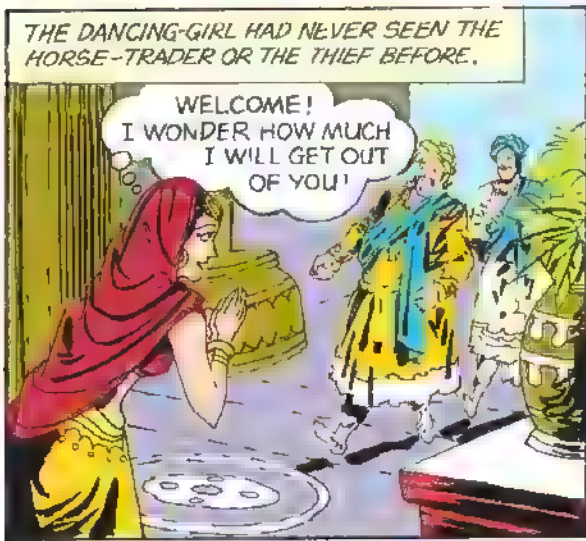
...SAHASRAMALLA HIMSELF!



SAHASRAMALLA THEN TOOK THE MAN TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCING-GIRL.



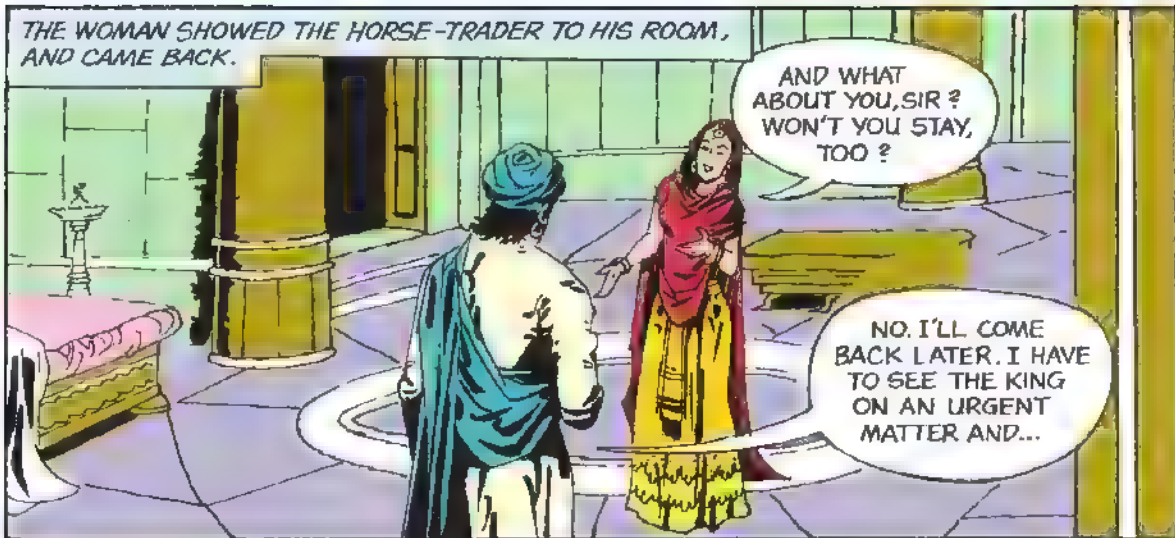
THE DANCING-GIRL HAD NEVER SEEN THE HORSE-TRADER OR THE THIEF BEFORE.



SAHASRAMALLA QUICKLY TOOK HER ASIDE.



THE WOMAN SHOWED THE HORSE-TRADER TO HIS ROOM,
AND CAME BACK.



AND WHAT
ABOUT YOU, SIR ?
WON'T YOU STAY,
TOO ?

NO. I'LL COME
BACK LATER. I HAVE
TO SEE THE KING
ON AN URGENT
MATTER AND...

...OH, NO! IN MY
HURRY, I FORGOT TO
PUT ON MY ORNAMENTS.
HOW CARELESS OF ME!



HOW CAN I APPEAR
BEFORE THE KING LIKE
THIS ? COULD YOU...
WOULD YOU... ER...
LEND ME SOME
OF YOURS ?



CERTAINLY!

I AM MOST GRATEFUL
TO YOU. IT'S A SMALL MATTER
BUT MEANS
MUCH TO ME.



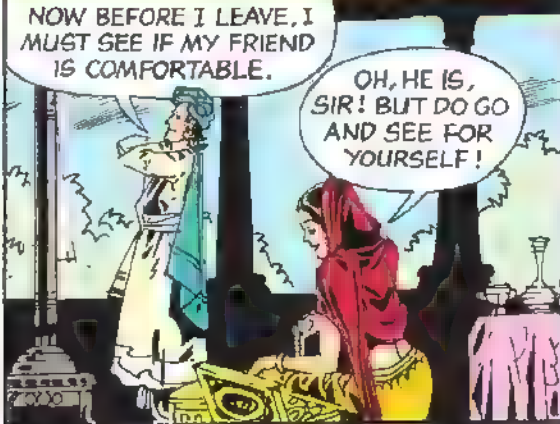
COME WITH ME.
YOU CAN TAKE
WHATEVER ORNA-
MENTS YOU WANT.



SAHASRAMALLA SELECTED THE MOST PRECIOUS ORNAMENTS IN THE WOMAN'S POSSESSION AND PUT THEM ON.

NOW BEFORE I LEAVE, I MUST SEE IF MY FRIEND IS COMFORTABLE.

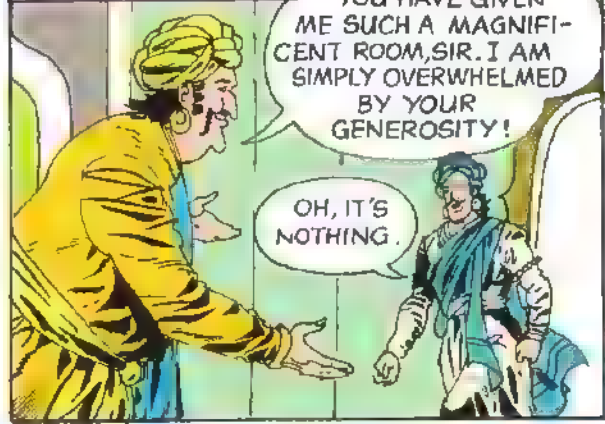
OH, HE IS, SIR! BUT DO GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!



THE HORSE-TRADER HAD NO WORDS TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE WHEN SAHASRAMALLA ENTERED HIS ROOM.

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SUCH A MAGNIFICENT ROOM, SIR. I AM SIMPLY OVERWHELMED BY YOUR GENEROSITY!

OH, IT'S NOTHING.



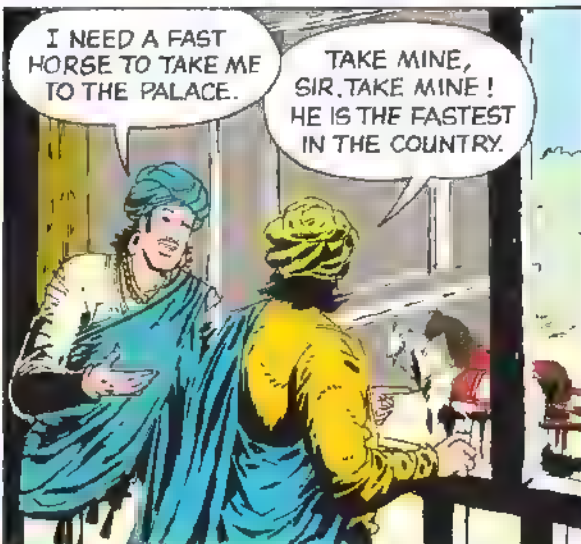
MY LADY WILL LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE I AM GONE. NOW I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU.

GO AHEAD



I NEED A FAST HORSE TO TAKE ME TO THE PALACE.

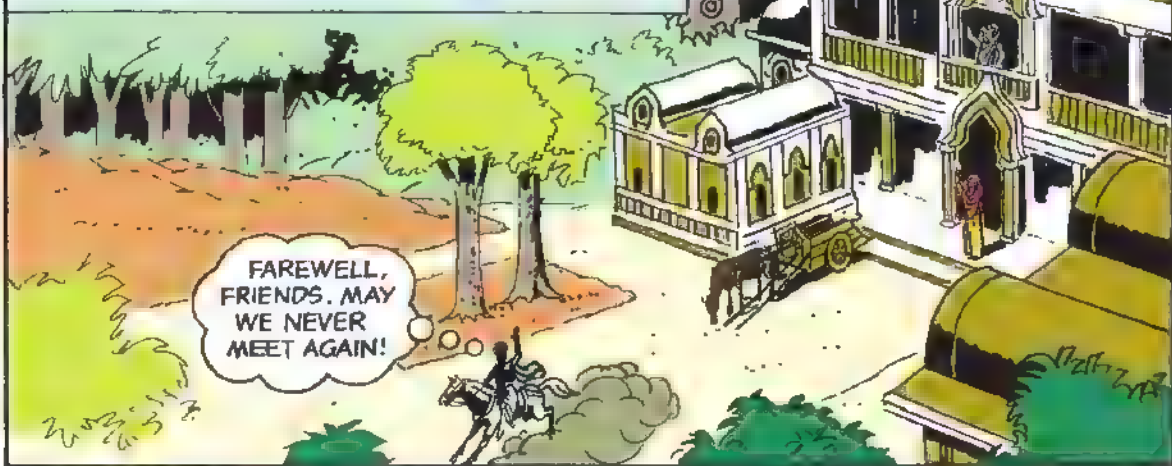
TAKE MINE, SIR, TAKE MINE! HE IS THE FASTEST IN THE COUNTRY.



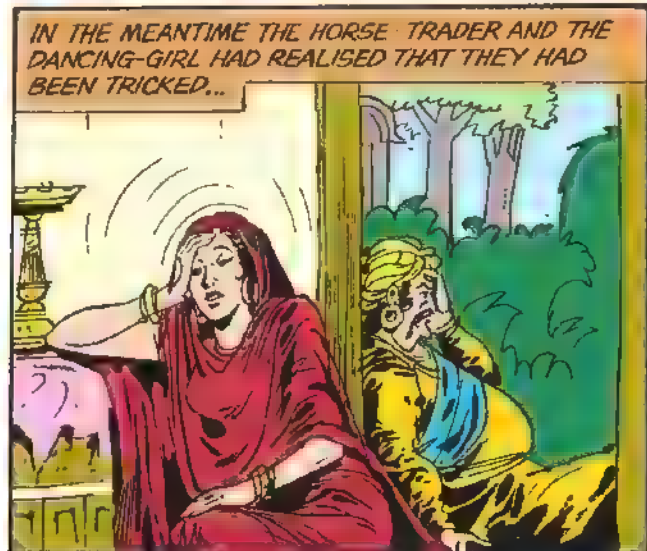
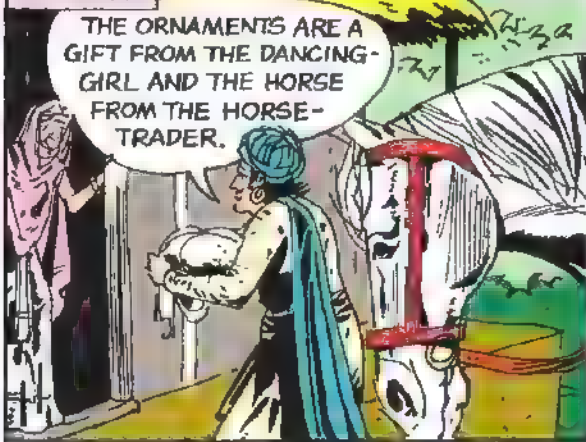
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU AFTER ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME

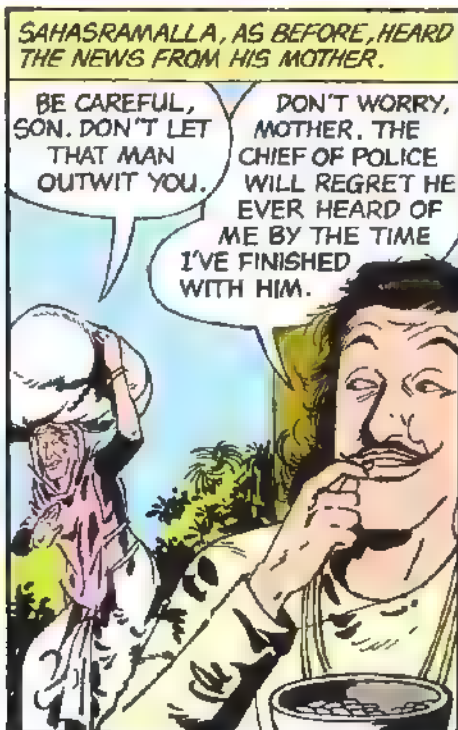
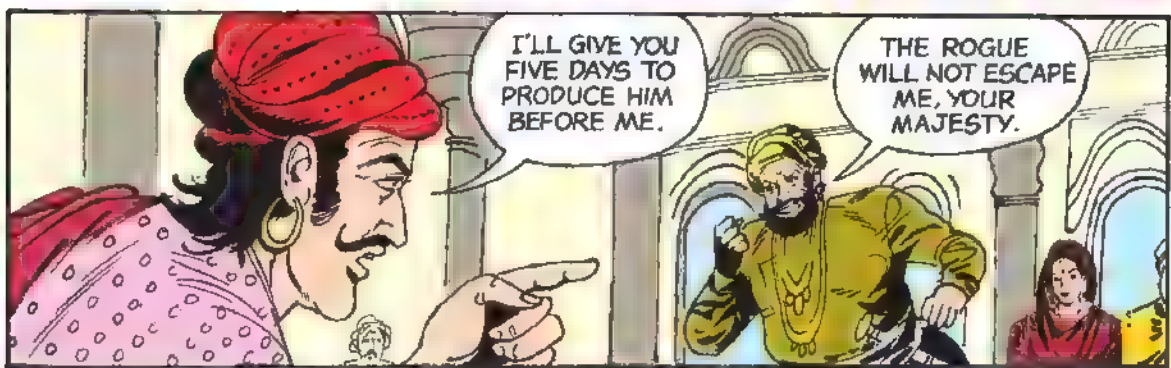
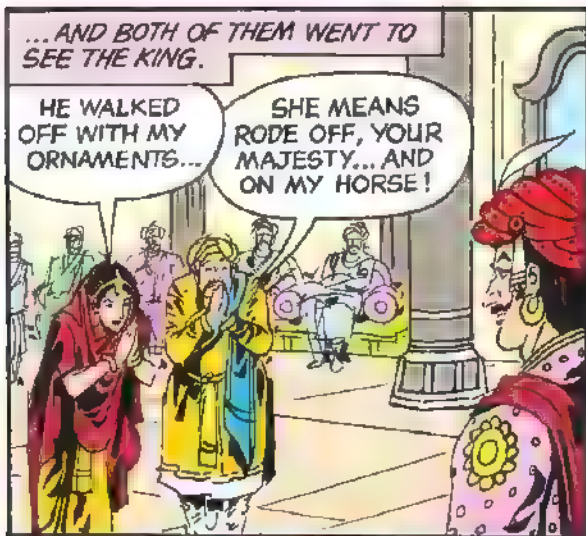


AND SO THE VERY TWO WHO HAD SET OUT TO CATCH THE THIEF WERE THEMSELVES CAUGHT IN HIS CLEVER WILES.



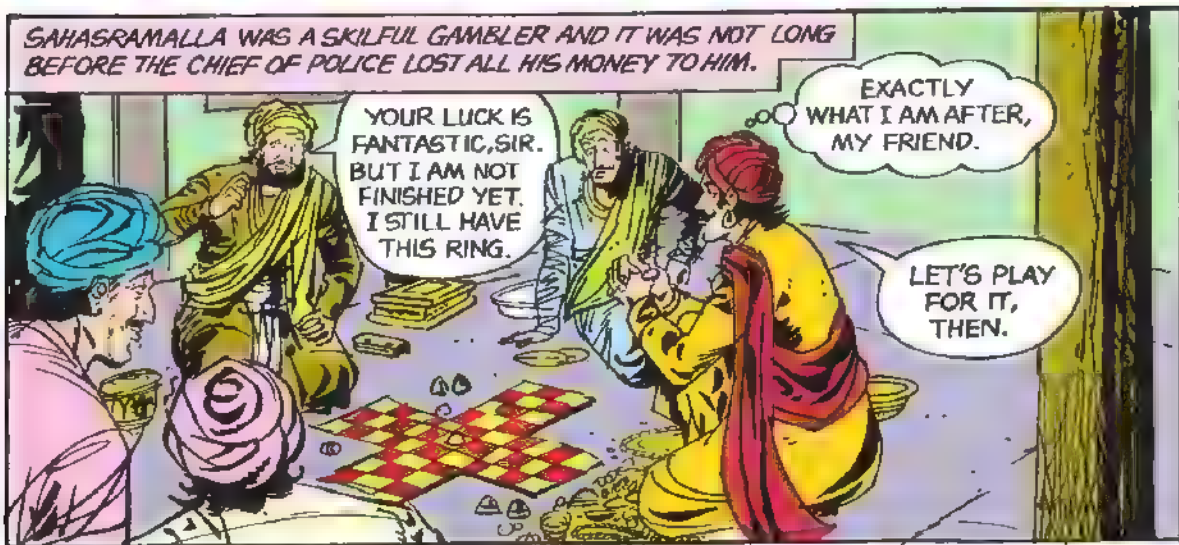
SAHASRAMALLA WENT HOME AND PRESENTED THE ORNAMENTS AND THE HORSE TO HIS MOTHER.



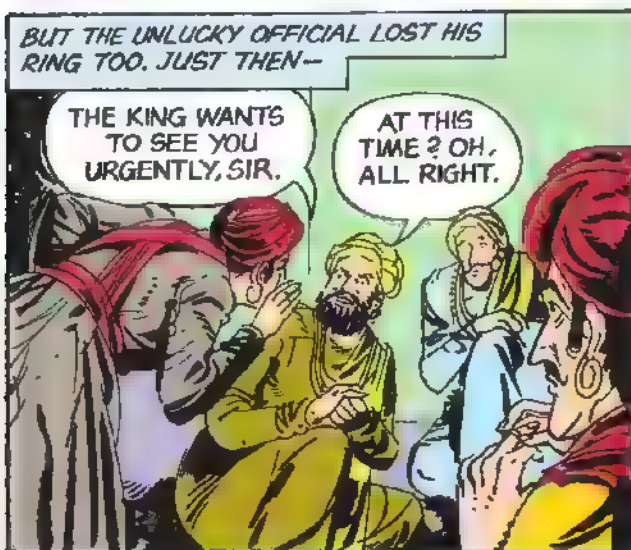


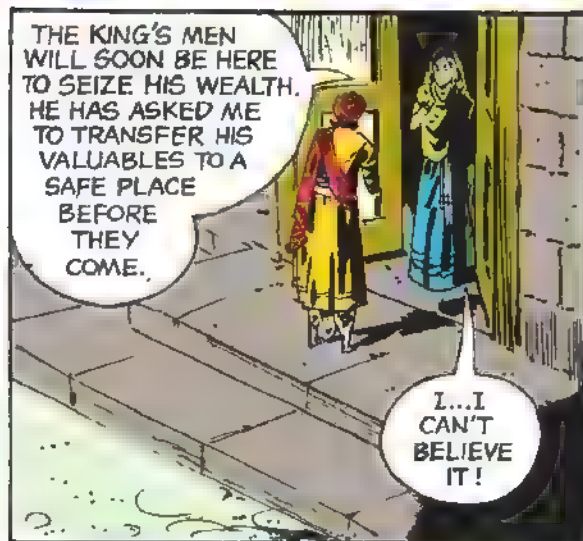
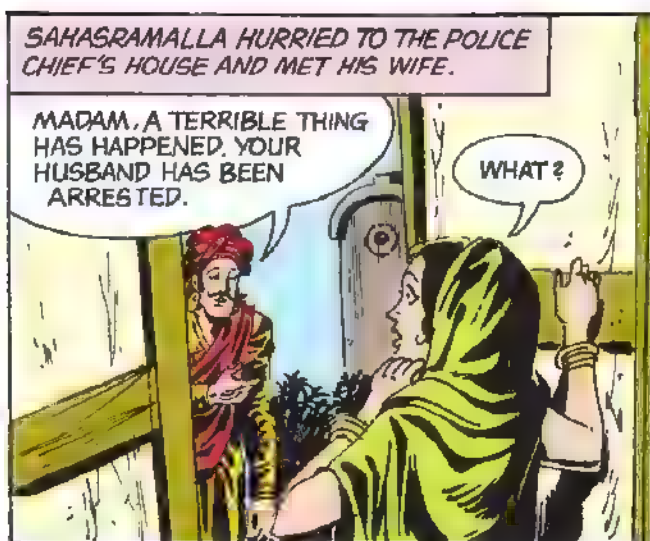


SAHASRAMALLA WAS A SKILFUL GAMBLER AND IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE CHIEF OF POLICE LOST ALL HIS MONEY TO HIM.



BUT THE UNLUCKY OFFICIAL LOST HIS RING TOO. JUST THEN—





A LITTLE LATER THE THIEF LEFT THE HOUSE WITH A BULGING SACK ON HIS BACK.



HE WENT HOME AND LAID THE SACK AT HIS MOTHER'S FEET.



MEANWHILE IN THE CITY, THE CHIEF OF POLICE HAD RETURNED HOME.

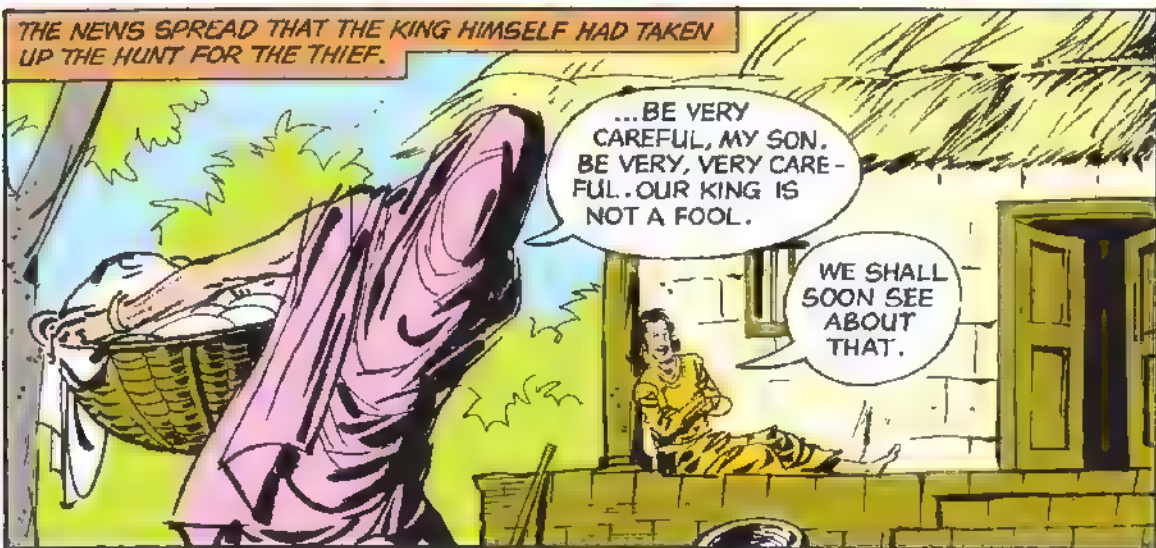
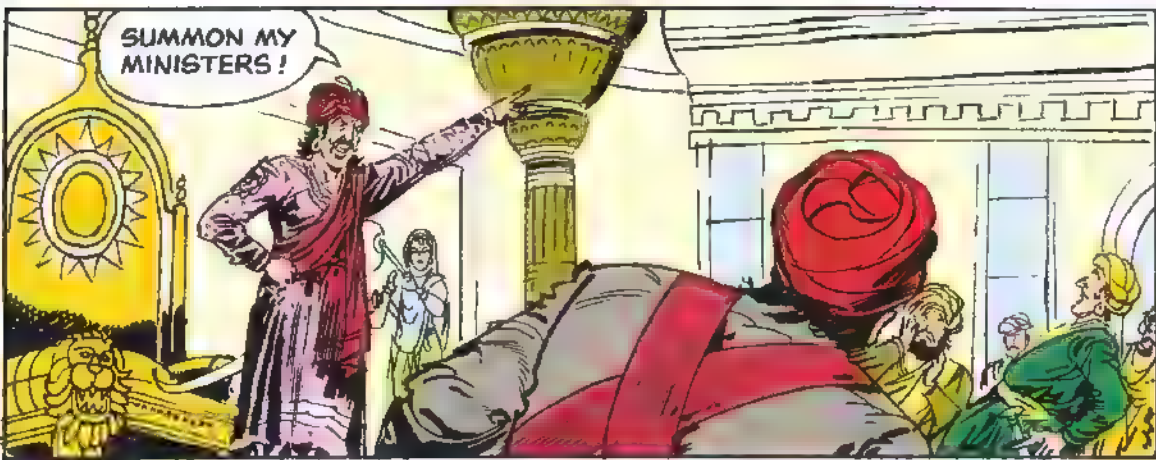


WHEN HIS WIFE TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THE POLICE CHIEF BECAME DEATHLY PALE. HIS MOUTH OPENED AND SHUT BUT NO SOUND CAME FROM IT.



THE HELPLESS POLICE CHIEF WENT TO THE PALACE NEXT DAY AND THREW HIMSELF AT THE KING'S FEET.

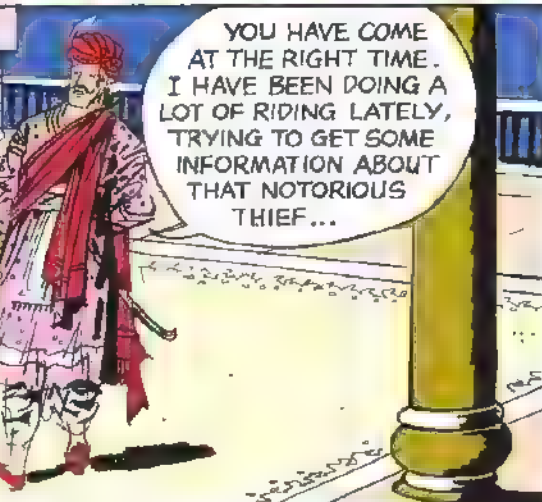


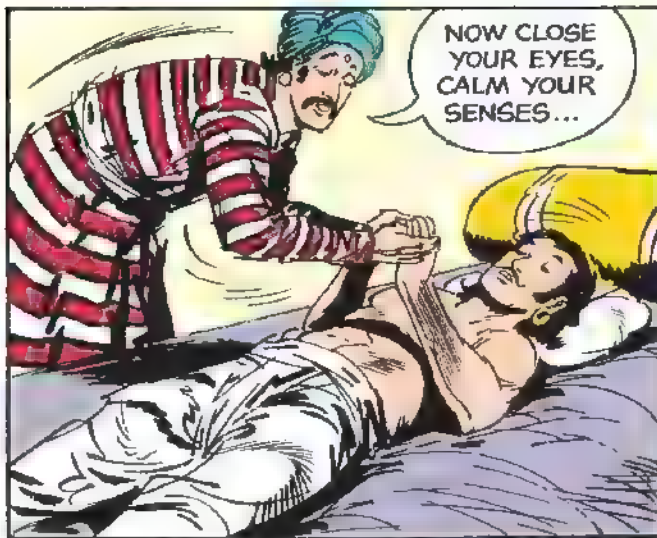


SOME DAYS LATER, THE THIEF PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE PALACE GATES.



WHEN SAHASRAMALLA WAS USHERED INTO THE ROYAL PRESENCE—

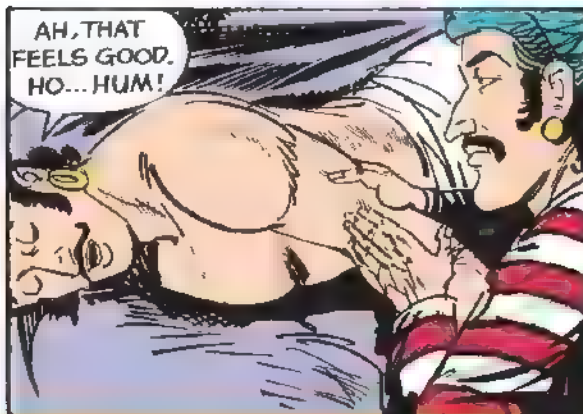




NOW CLOSE
YOUR EYES,
CALM YOUR
SENSES...



...AND LET MY
HANDS DO
THE REST.



AH, THAT
FEELS GOOD.
HO... HUM!

SAHASRAMALLA HAD NOT EXAGGERATED
WHEN HE HAD CLAIMED TO BE AN EXPERT
MASSEUR. HIS PRACTISED HANDS SOON
DISPELLED THE KING'S WEARINESS...



...AND THEN GENTLY LULLED HIM
TO SLEEP.



SWEET DREAMS,
YOUR MAJESTY.
NOW I MUST
BE OFF.



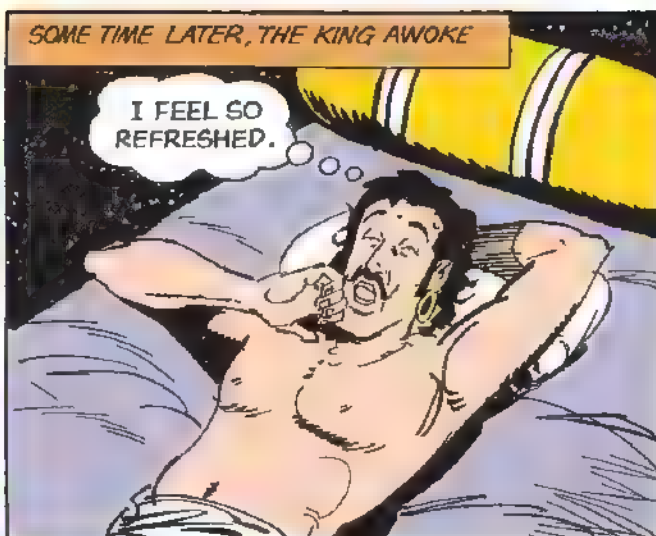
YOU WILL
PARDON ME,
I'M SURE, FOR
TAKING THESE
TRINKETS AS
SOUVENIRS FOR
MY MOTHER.

HE WRAPPED UP THE CROWN AND THE JEWELLERY IN THE ROYAL ROBES AND NOISELESSLY LET HIMSELF OUT OF THE WINDOW.

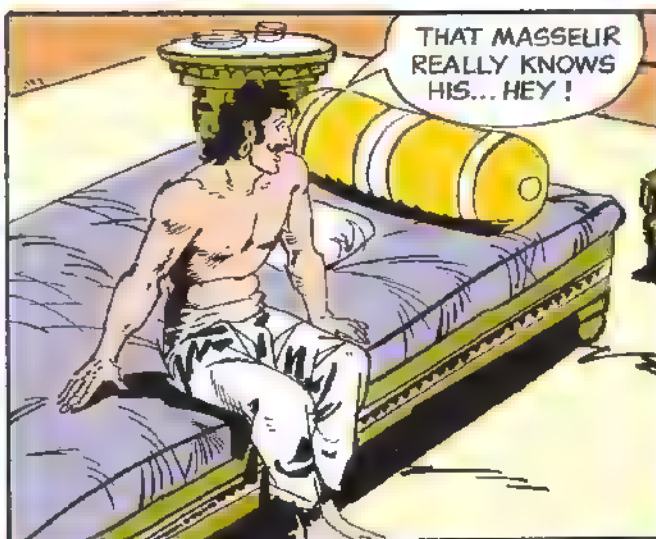


SOME TIME LATER, THE KING AWOKE

I FEEL SO REFRESHED.

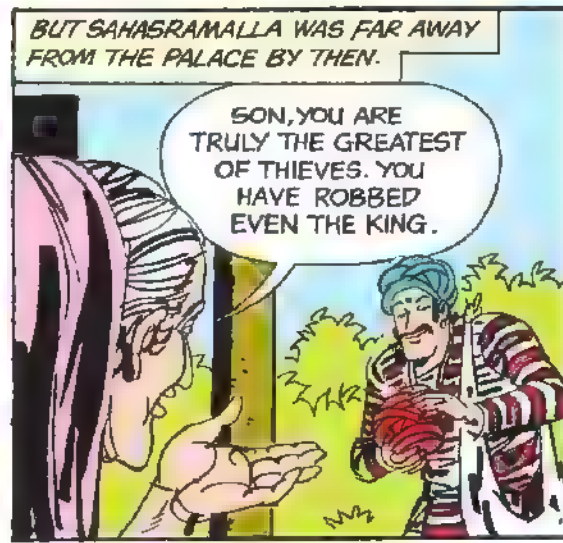
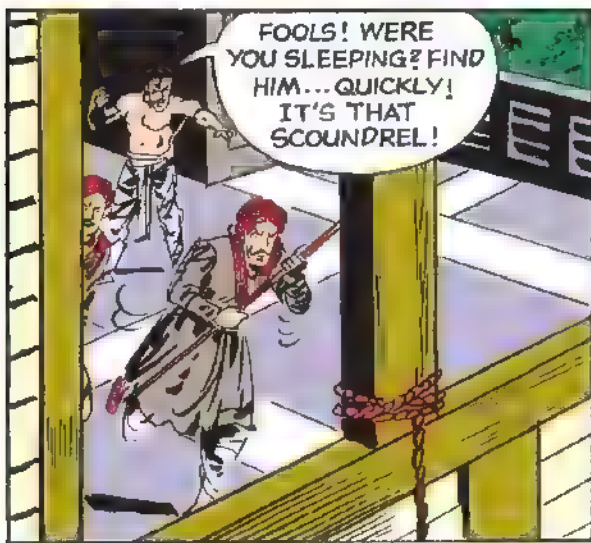


THAT MASSEUR REALLY KNOWS HIS... HEY!



WHERE IS MY CROWN? MY JEWELLERY? MY ROBES!



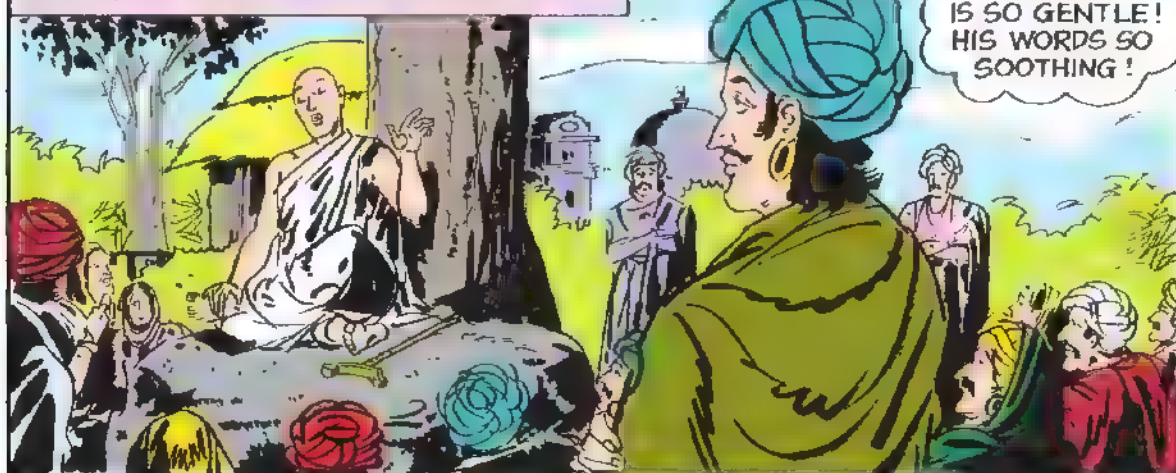




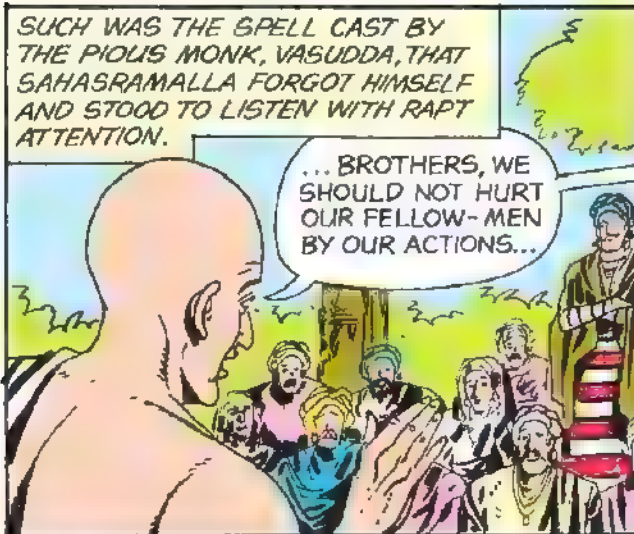
AND RIGHT ENOUGH, SAHASRAMALLA WAS SOON OUT ON THE PROWL. ONE DAY HE CAME ACROSS A HUGE GATHERING OF PEOPLE.



JUST AS SAHASRAMALLA SLIPPED INTO THE CROWD, THE MONK BEGAN TO PREACH.



SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY THE PIOUS MONK, VASUDDA, THAT SAHASRAMALLA FORGOT HIMSELF AND STOOD TO LISTEN WITH RAPT ATTENTION.



... BROTHERS, WE SHOULD NOT HURT OUR FELLOW-MEN BY OUR ACTIONS...

IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE JOYS OF LIFE, SO HAVE OTHERS.



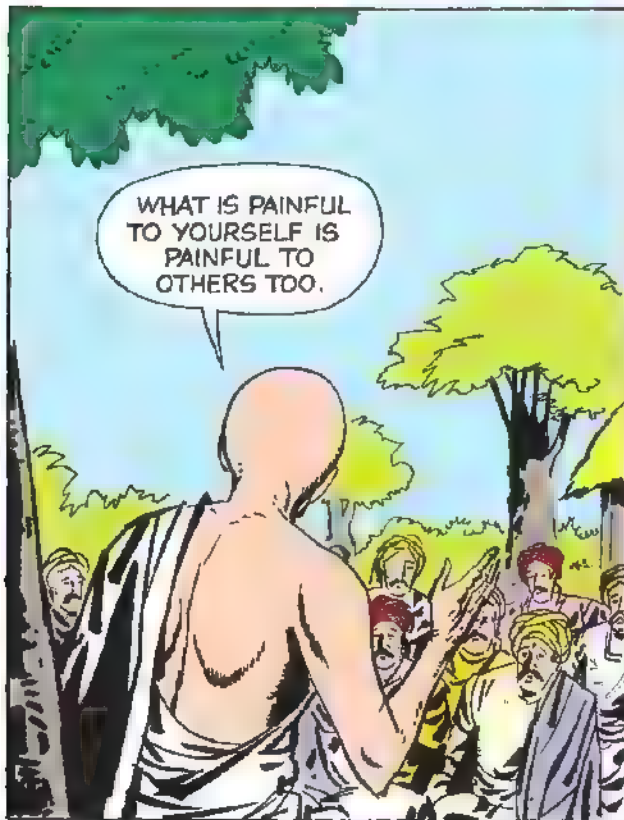
WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF SOMEONE STOLE YOUR PROPERTY?

I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T!

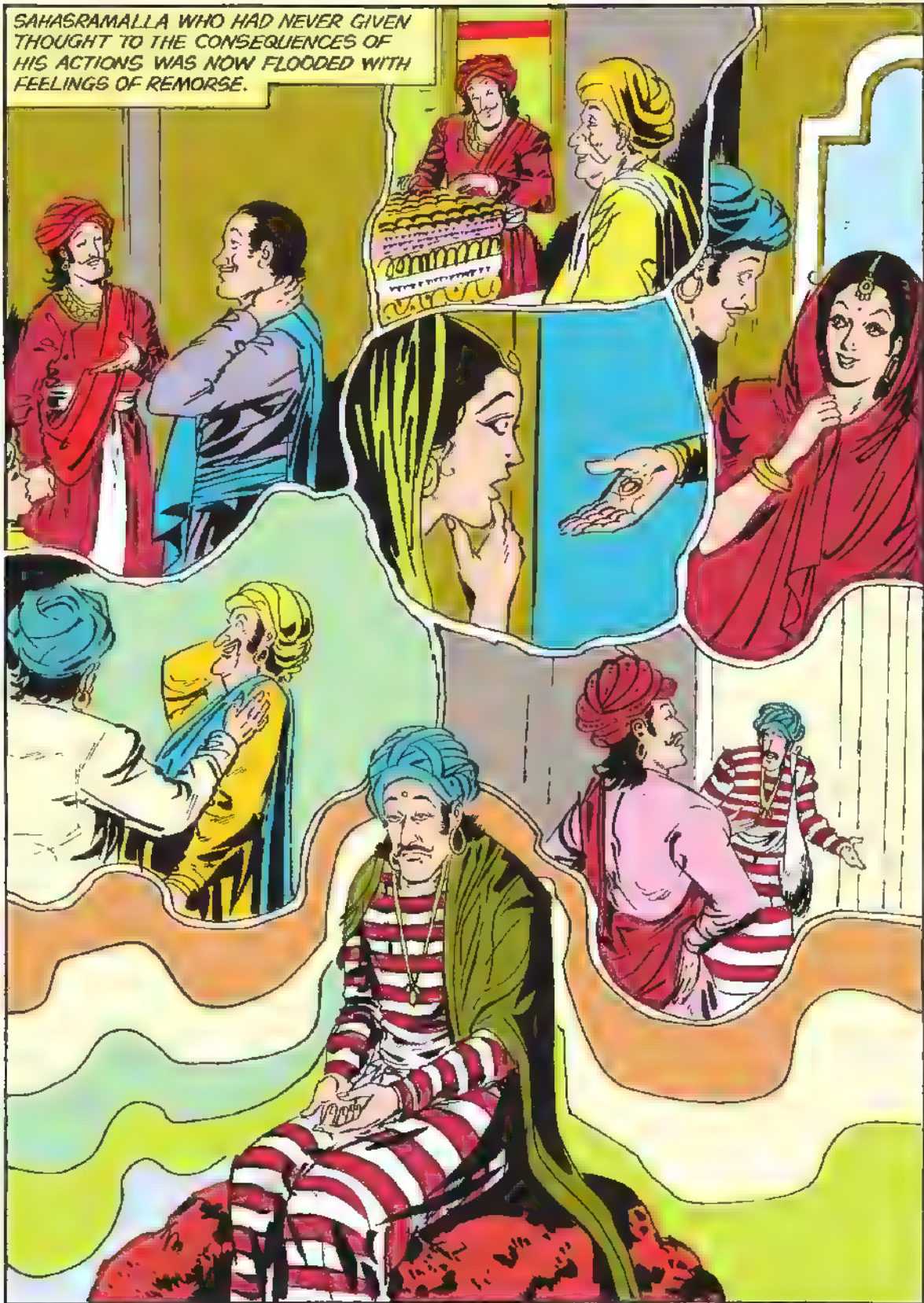


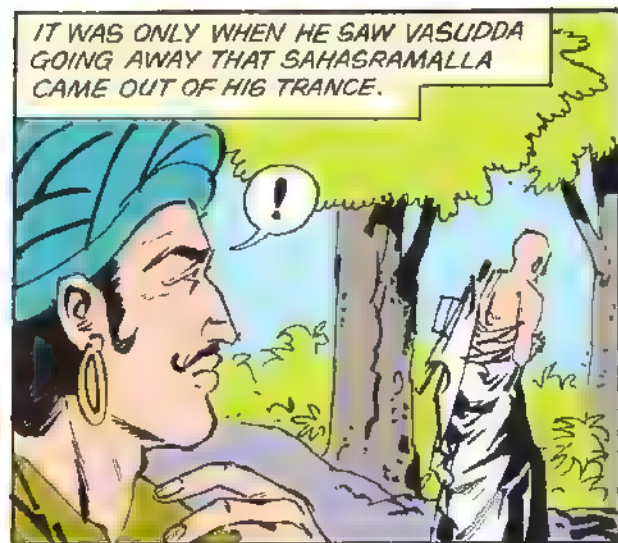
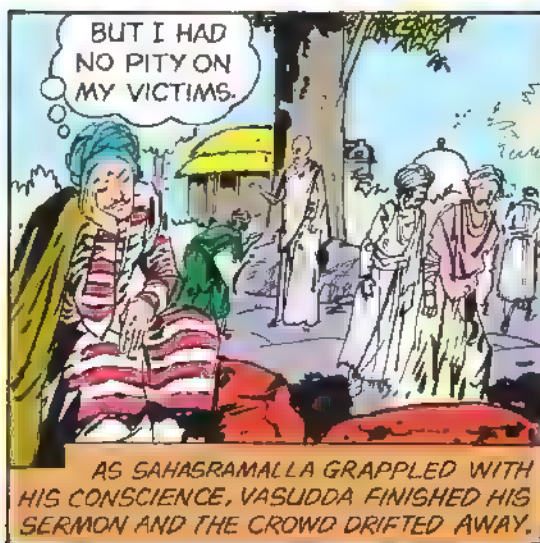
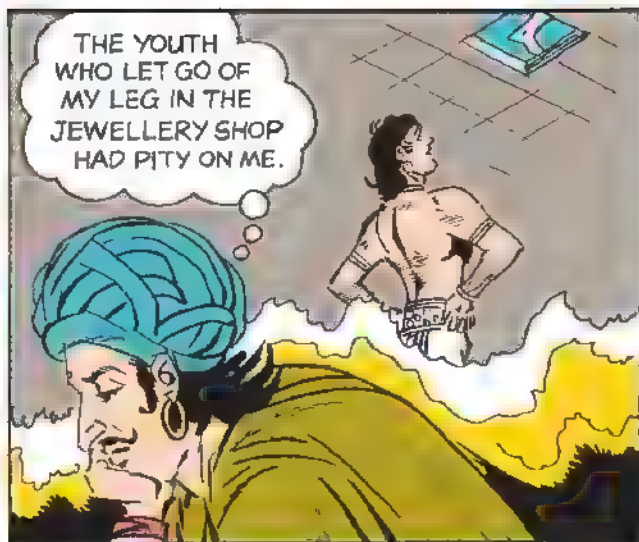
THEN SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT STEAL SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY.





SAHASRAMALLA WHO HAD NEVER GIVEN
THOUGHT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF
HIS ACTIONS WAS NOW FLOODED WITH
FEELINGS OF REMORSE.





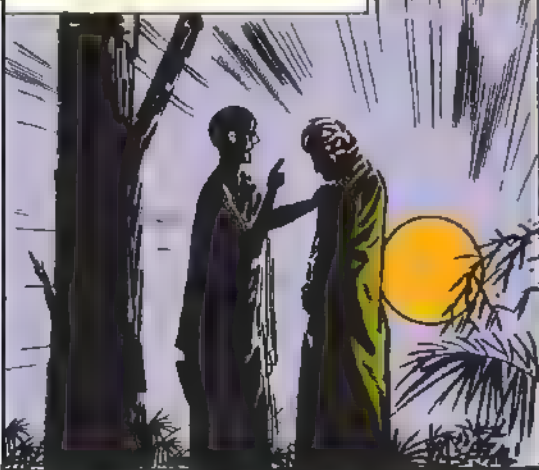
WHEN SAHASRAMALLA BLURTED OUT HIS STORY OF SHAME—



IF YOU HAVE TRULY REPENTED, MY SON, THEN YOU MUST DO AS I TELL YOU...



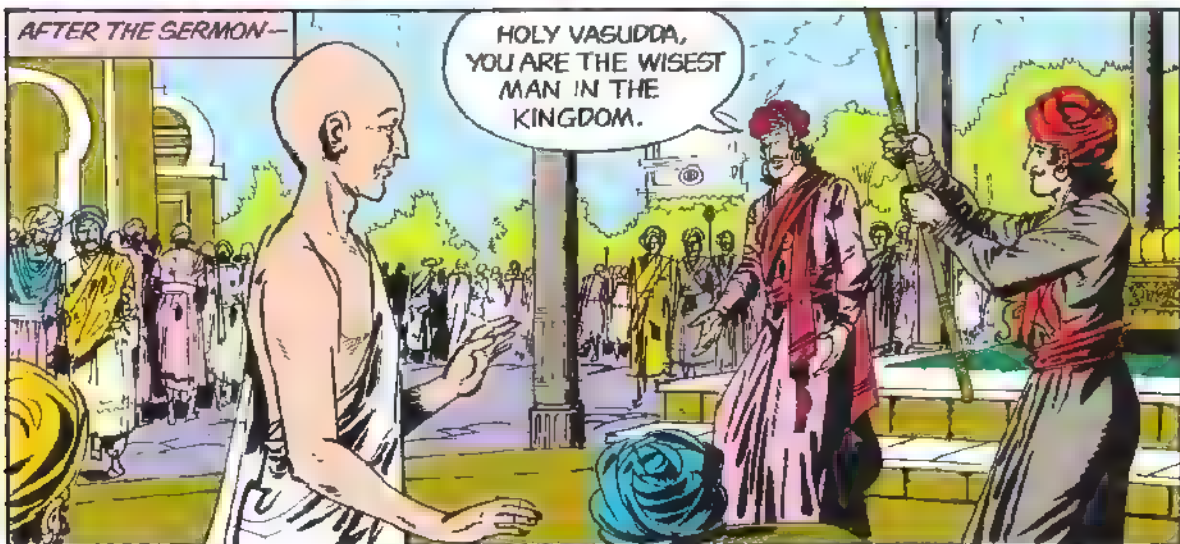
AND IN THE GATHERING DUSK THE SAINT INSTRUCTED THE SINNER.



THE NEXT DAY TOO VASUDDA SPOKE OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE. THIS TIME THERE WAS A LARGER CROWD AND THE KING HIMSELF WAS PRESENT.



AFTER THE SERMON—





SAHASRAMALLA FELL AT THE KING'S FEET.



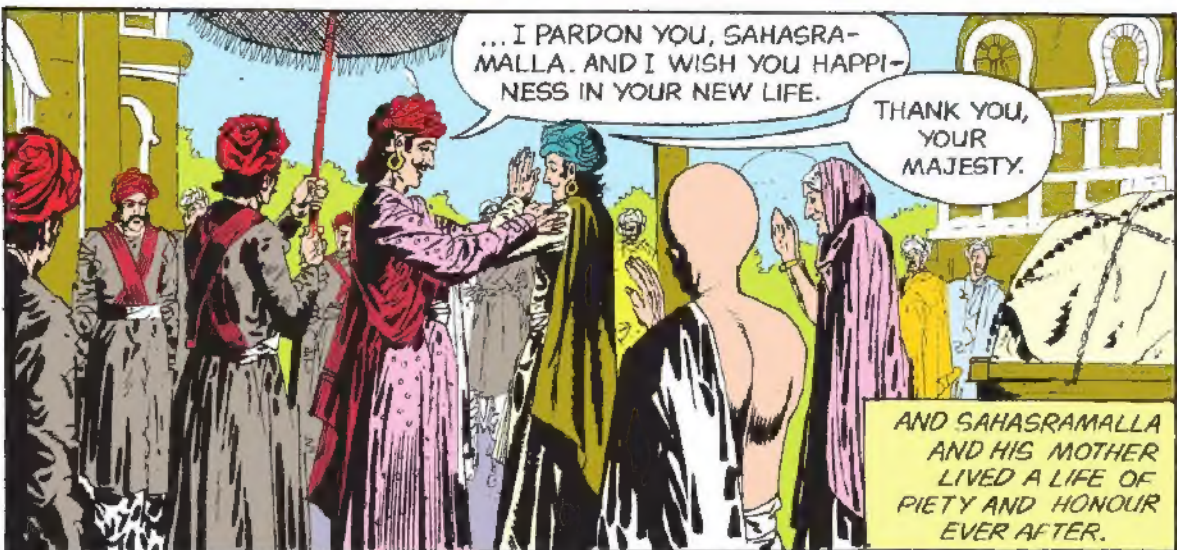
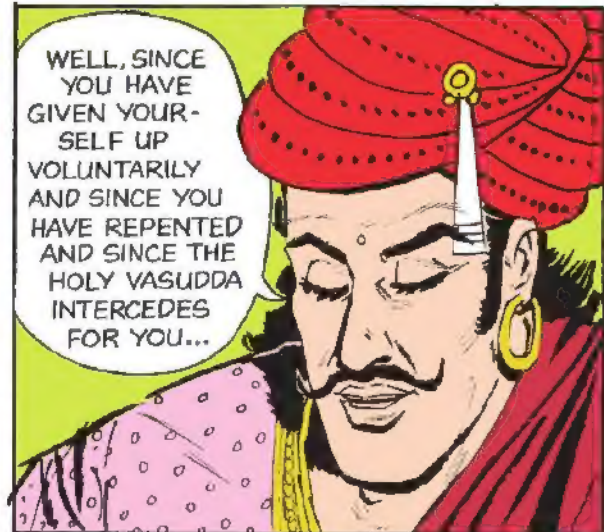
I AM READY TO ACCEPT WHATEVER PUNISHMENT YOU GIVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY.

MY MOTHER AND I HAVE BROUGHT BACK ALL THE GOODS I STOLE, TO BE RESTORED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS.



WELL...

WELL, SINCE YOU HAVE GIVEN YOURSELF UP VOLUNTARILY AND SINCE YOU HAVE REPENTED AND SINCE THE HOLY VASUDDA INTERCEDES FOR YOU...



... I PARDON YOU, SAHASRAMALLA. AND I WISH YOU HAPPINESS IN YOUR NEW LIFE.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

AND SAHASRAMALLA AND HIS MOTHER LIVED A LIFE OF PIETY AND HONOUR EVER AFTER.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

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Konark
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Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
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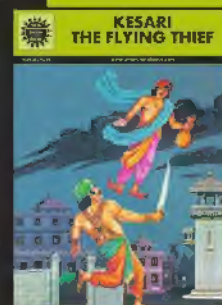
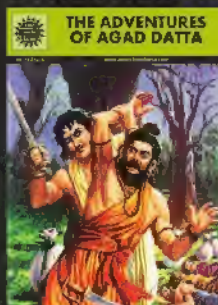
FABLES & HUMOUR

SAHASRAMALLA

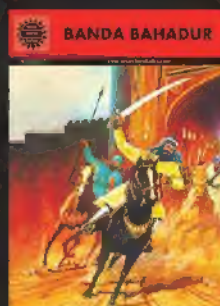
Sahasramalla steals from everyone. But when he tricks the King himself, Sahasramalla realises that there is no longer anyone left to rob and wonders what to do next. Near by, a monk named Vasudda is speaking. Vasudda's words make Sahasramalla realise how many people he has cheated and betrayed.

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ISBN 81-8482-472-6



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